

THE SECOND INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou, which will take place on May 20, 2012. I join with the people of Taiwan in celebrating this historic occasion.

Since the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States and Taiwan have focused on creating a harmonious bilateral relationship. While our two countries have continued to share strong relations, we have been able to further strengthen our ties under President Ma's leadership.

I am pleased to note several positive developments that taken place over the course of President Ma's first term, including being recognized by the World Health Organization as an observer to the World Health Assembly. This important recognition has given Taiwan an avenue in which to address the health issues affecting its country.

Furthermore, the United States has increased trade relations with Taiwan, and U.S. agricultural and food products now account for over 30 percent of Taiwan's agricultural imports. These gains could not have been achieved independently, and such positive outcomes would not be possible without the collaboration and cooperation of President Ma's government.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to congratulate President Ma on his second term in office. I look forward to continuing my work with the President and his government to ensure a peaceful and prosperous Taiwan.

IN COMMEMORATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

This month recognizes that our country's strength comes from the diverse talents, cultures, and ideas of its people. In Hawaii, it is this very diversity that helps drive our State forward and is the basis of our rich local culture.

We honor the indigenous people of Hawaii and the Pacific islands and the Asian immigrants who have come to America seeking opportunity and freedom. Key anniversaries in the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders occur in May, including the arrival to the U.S. of the first Japanese immigrants in 1843.

As an immigrant myself, I know firsthand the challenges—and the opportunities—that so many faced when they came to America.

My mother, brothers, and I arrived with little more than the clothes on our back and my mother's determination to build a better life for her children.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have found success in all walks of life. In government alone, we recognize Senator INOUE, president pro tempore, who chairs the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in Congress, whose Title IX legislation ensured education equity for women and girls; and Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole, whose leadership led to the creation of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands with the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920.

These distinguished leaders aren't just a source of pride for the AAPI community, they also inspire a Nation. I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and look forward to seeing the trailblazers of the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on May 15, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 250, 251, and 252.

SUPPORTING NOAA'S CLIMATE
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH, SUS-
TAINED OBSERVATIONS AND RE-
GIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of NOAA's Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program, which was unfortunately cut by \$26 million from the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request in the Commerce, Justice, Science FY13 Appropriations bill.

While I appreciate the funding included in this bill for NOAA's satellite programs, NASA, NIST, and NSF, and thank my colleagues who supported these programs, I urge them to work with me to restore the \$26 million cut in this important climate research program.

In March, I joined 28 of my House colleagues in writing to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Science and Justice in support of the full budget request for this program.

NOAA's competitive climate program contributes to local, regional, national, and global weather and water outlooks. These are relied upon by key decision makers in cities and States throughout the country in areas such as agriculture and power generation. The State of Colorado is not only the home to world-class research institutions whose researchers are supported by this funding, but it is also a user of this information for vital natural resource governance decisions.

The southwest has experienced persistent drought conditions over the last three decades. Temperatures in Colorado have increased two degrees during the same time, a trend that will likely persist. Colorado has also

experienced earlier snow melting, which desiccates our reservoirs, contributing to increased demand for water for personal and agricultural use, and increased flooding risk.

The agricultural community, water resource managers, and power suppliers across Colorado rely on the monitoring, observation, and analysis supported by this funding line to inform decisions that directly affect the health of the economy.

The importance of this need was recognized in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Governors Association and NOAA to provide climate information to western states to help them mitigate disaster situations stemming from flood, drought, and fires.

This Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program also supports critical ocean observing systems, as data has shown that the highly dynamic relationship between oceans and the atmosphere affects weather and climate shifts over land. It also supports satellite calibration and validation which inform the most accurate satellite observations.

Importantly, many American businesses rely on this funding to create and manufacture environmental observing equipment.

I recognize that we must make difficult choices in our current fiscal environment. Supporting this program will continue our investments in research, observations, and modeling to help States and businesses manage environmental risk and reduce future expenses from natural disasters.

I urge my colleagues to consider restoring funding to NOAA's Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program before this spending bill is enacted into law.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA (TAIWAN) AND ITS PRESI-
DENT, MA YING-JEOU

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China (Taiwan) and its President, Ma Ying-jeou, on the impending inauguration of his second term on May 20, 2012. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting President Ma in October of 2011, and I wish him and the Taiwanese people well during his second term of office.

The friendship enjoyed by the United States and Taiwan rests upon a strong foundation of democracy, trade, and security. Through the elections held on January 14, 2012 and the inauguration on May 20, Taiwan is reaffirming that commitment to democracy and that is something that should be held up as an example for others in the region and the world at large.

President Ma's first term was marked by many successes, including securing observer status with the World Health Assembly and increasing trade and reducing tensions in the East Asia region. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that the U.S.-Taiwan relationship grows and strengthens and that Taiwan remains a safe, strong, and stable ally in the region.